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(54) Title: NOVEL EXENDIN AGONIST COMPOUNDS

(57) Abstract

Novel exendin agonist compounds are provided. These compounds are useful in treating Type I and II diabetes and conditions which would be benefited by lower plasma glucose and delaying and/or slowing gastric emptying.

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DESCRIPTION

NOVEL EXENDIN AGONIST COMPOUNDS

This application claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/055,404, filed August 8, 1997, the contents of which are hereby incorporated by reference in their entirety.

Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to novel compounds which have activity as exendin agonists. These compounds are useful in treatment of Type I and II diabetes, in treatment of disorders which would be benefited by agents which lower plasma glucose levels and in treatment of disorders which would be benefited with agents useful in delaying and/or slowing gastric emptying.

BACKGROUND

The following description includes information that may be useful in understanding the present invention. It is not an admission that any of the information provided herein is prior art to the presently claimed invention, nor that any of the publications specifically or implicitly referenced are prior art to that invention.

Exendin

The exendins are peptides that are found in the venom of the Gila-monster, a lizard common in Arizona and Northern Mexico. Exendin-3 [SEQ. ID. NO. 1] is present in the venom of Heloderma horridum, and exendin-4 [SEQ. ID. NO. 2] is

present in the venom of Heloderma suspectum (Eng, J., et al., J. Biol. Chem., 265:20259-62, 1990; Eng., J., et al., J. Biol. Chem., 267:7402-05, 1992). The amino acid sequence of exendin-3 is shown in Figure 2. The amino acid sequence of exendin-4 is shown in Figure 3. The exendins have some sequence similarity to several members of the glucagon-like peptide family, with the highest homology, 53%, being to GLP-1[7-36]NH_2 [SEQ. ID. NO. 3] (Goke, et al., J. Biol. Chem., 268:19650-55, 1993). GLP-1[7-36]NH_2, also known as proglucagon[78-107] or simply, "GLP-1," has an insulinotropic effect, stimulating insulin secretion from pancreatic β-cells. The amino acid sequence of GLP-1 is shown in Figure 4. GLP-1 also inhibits glucagon secretion from pancreatic α-cells (Ørsov, et al., Diabetes, 42:658-61, 1993; D'Alessio, et al., J. Clin. Invest., 97:133-38, 1996). GLP-1 is reported to inhibit gastric emptying (Willms B, et al., J Clin Endocrinol Metab 81 (1): 327-32, 1996; Wettergren A, et al., Dig Dis Sci 38 (4): 665-73, 1993), and gastric acid secretion. Schjoldager BT, et al., Dig Dis Sci 34 (5): 703-8, 1989; O'Halloran DJ, et al., J Endocrinol 126 (1): 169-73, 1990; Wettergren A, et al., Dig Dis Sci 38 (4): 665-73, 1993). GLP-1[7-37], which has an additional glycine residue at its carboxy terminus, also stimulates insulin secretion in humans (Ørsov, et al., Diabetes, 42:658-61, 1993). A transmembrane G-protein adenylate-cyclase-coupled receptor believed to be responsible for the insulinotropic effect of GLP-1 has been cloned from a β-cell line (Thorens, Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 89:8641-45 (1992)).

Exendin-4 reportedly acts at GLP-1 receptors on insulin-secreting βTC1 cells, at dispersed acinar cells from guinea pig pancreas, and at parietal cells from stomach; the peptide

is also said to stimulate somatostatin release and inhibit gastrin release in isolated stomachs (Goke, et al., J. Biol. Chem. 268:19650-55, 1993; Schepp, et al., Eur. J. Pharmacol., 69:183-91, 1994; Eissele, et al., Life Sci., 55:629-34, 1994). Exendin-3 and exendin-4 were reportedly found to stimulate cAMP production in, and amylase release from, pancreatic acinar cells (Malhotra, R., et al., Regulatory Peptides,41:149-56, 1992; Raufman, et al., J. Biol. Chem. 267:21432-37, 1992; Singh, et al., Regul. Pept. 53:47-59, 1994). Based on their insulinotropic activities, the use of exendin-3 and exendin-4 for the treatment of diabetes mellitus and the prevention of hyperglycemia has been proposed (Eng, U.S. Patent No. 5,424,286).

Agents which serve to delay gastric emptying have found a place in medicine as diagnostic aids in gastro-intestinal radiologic examinations. For example, glucagon is a polypeptide hormone which is produced by the α cells of the pancreatic islets of Langerhans. It is a hyperglycemic agent which mobilizes glucose by activating hepatic glycogenolysis. It can to a lesser extent stimulate the secretion of pancreatic insulin. Glucagon is used in the treatment of insulin-induced hypoglycemia, for example, when administration of glucose intravenously is not possible. However, as glucagon reduces the motility of the gastro-intestinal tract it is also used as a diagnostic aid in gastro-intestinal radiological examinations. Glucagon has also been used in several studies to treat various painful gastro-intestinal disorders associated with spasm. Daniel, et al. (Br. Med. J., 3:720, 1974) reported quicker symptomatic relief of acute diverticulitis in patients treated with glucagon compared with those who had been

treated with analgesics or antispasmodics. A review by Glauser, et al., (J. Am. Coll. Emergency Physns, 8:228, 1979) described relief of acute esophageal food obstruction following glucagon therapy. In another study glucagon significantly relieved pain and tenderness in 21 patients with biliary tract disease compared with 22 patients treated with placebo (M.J. Stower, et al., Br. J. Surg., 69:591-2, 1982).

Methods for regulating gastrointestinal motility using amylin agonists are described in International Application No. PCT/US94/10225, published March 16, 1995.

Methods for regulating gastrointestinal motility using exendin agonists are described in a U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 08/908,867.

Certain exendin agonists are described in United States Provisional Application No. 60/065,442 filed November 14, 1997 and in United States Provisional Application Serial No. 60/066,029 filed November 14, 1997.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

According to one aspect, the present invention provides novel exendin agonist compounds which exhibit advantageous properties which include effects in slowing gastric emptying and lowering plasma glucose levels.

According to the present invention, provided are compounds of the formula (I) [SEQ. ID. NO. 4]:

1 5 10
Xaa_1 Xaa_2 Xaa_3 Gly Thr Xaa_4 Xaa_5 Xaa_6 Xaa_7 Xaa_8
15 20
Ser Lys Gln Xaa_9 Glu Glu Glu Ala Val Arg Leu
25 30
Xaa_{10} Xaa_{11} Xaa_{12} Xaa_{13} Leu Lys Asn Gly Gly Xaa_{14}
35
Ser Ser Gly Ala Xaa_{15} Xaa_{16} Xaa_{17} Xaa_{18}-Z

wherein Xaa_1 is His, Arg or Tyr; Xaa_2 is Ser, Gly, Ala or Thr; Xaa_3 is Asp or Glu; Xaa_4 is Phe, Tyr or naphthylalanine; Xaa_5 is Thr or Ser; Xaa_6 is Ser or Thr; Xaa_7 is Asp or Glu; Xaa_8 is Leu, Ile, Val, pentylglycine or Met; Xaa_9 is Leu, Ile, pentylglycine, Val or Met; Xaa_{10} is Phe, Tyr or naphthylalanine; Xaa_{11} is Ile, Val, Leu, pentylglycine, tert-butylglycine or Met; Xaa_{12} is Glu or Asp; Xaa_{13} is Trp, Phe, Tyr, or naphthylalanine; Xaa_{14}, Xaa_{15}, Xaa_{16} and Xaa_{17} are independently Pro, homoproline, 3Hyp, 4Hyp, thioproline, N-alkylglycine, N-alkylpentylglycine or N-alkylalanine; Xaa_{18} is Ser, Thr or Tyr; and Z is -OH or $-NH_2$; with the proviso that the compound does not have the formula of either SEQ. ID. NOS. 1 or 2. Also included within the scope of the present invention are pharmaceutically acceptable salts of the compounds of formula (I) and pharmaceutical compositions including said compounds and salts thereof.

Also provided are compounds of the formula (II) [SEQ. ID. NO. 36]:

1 5 10
Xaa_1 Xaa_2 Xaa_3 Gly Thr Xaa_4 Xaa_5 Xaa_6 Xaa_7 Xaa_8
15 20
Ser Lys Gln Xaa_9 Glu Glu Glu Ala Val Arg Leu
25 30
Xaa_{10} Xaa_{11} Xaa_{12} Xaa_{13} Leu X_1 Gly Gly Xaa_{14}
35
Ser Ser Gly Ala Xaa_{15} Xaa_{16} Xaa_{17} Xaa_{18}-Z

wherein Xaa_1 is His, Arg, Tyr or 4-imidazopropionyl; Xaa_2 is Ser, Gly, Ala or Thr; Xaa_3 is Asp or Glu; Xaa_4 is Phe, Tyr or naphthylalanine; Xaa_5 is Thr or Ser; Xaa_6 is Ser or Thr; Xaa_7 is Asp or Glu; Xaa_8 is Leu, Ile, Val, pentylglycine or Met; Xaa_9 is Leu, Ile, pentylglycine, Val or Met; Xaa_{10} is Phe, Tyr or naphthylalanine; Xaa_{11} is Ile, Val, Leu, pentylglycine, tert-butylglycine or Met; Xaa_{12} is Glu or Asp; Xaa_{13} is Trp, Phe, Tyr, or naphthylalanine; X_1 is Lys Asn, Asn Lys, Lys-NH^e-R Asn, Asn Lys-NH^e-R where R is Lys, Arg, C_1-C_{10} straight chain or branched alkanoyl or cycloalkylalkanoyl; Xaa_{14}, Xaa_{15}, Xaa_{16} and Xaa_{17} are independently Pro, homoproline, 3Hyp, 4Hyp, thioproline, N-alkylglycine, N-alkylpentylglycine or N-alkylalanine; Xaa_{18} is Ser, Thr or Tyr; and Z is -OH or $-NH_2$; with the proviso that the compound does not have the formula of either SEQ. ID. NOS. 1 or 2. Also included within the scope of the presentinvention are pharmaceutically acceptable slats of the compounds of formula (II) and pharmaceutical compositions including said compounds and salts thereof.

Definitions

In accordance with the present invention and as used

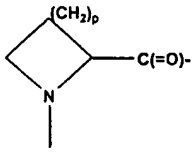
herein, the following terms are defined to have the following meanings, unless explicitly stated otherwise.

The term "amino acid" refers to natural amino acids, unnatural amino acids, and amino acid analogs, all in their D and L stereoisomers if their structure allow such stereoisomeric forms. Natural amino acids include alanine (Ala), arginine (Arg), asparagine (Asn), aspartic acid (Asp), cysteine (Cys), glutamine (Gln), glutamic acid (Glu), glycine (Gly), histidine (His), isoleucine (Ile), leucine (Leu), Lysine (Lys), methionine (Met), phenylalanine (Phe), proline (Pro), serine (Ser), threonine (Thr), typtophan (Trp), tyrosine (Tyr) and valine (Val). Unnatural amino acids include, but are not limited to azetidinecarboxylic acid, 2-aminoadipic acid, 3-aminoadipic acid, beta-alanine, aminopropionic acid, 2-aminobutyric acid, 4-aminobutyric acid, 6-aminocaproic acid, 2-aminoheptanoic acid, 2-aminoisobutyric acid, 3-aminoisbutyric acid, 2-aminopimelic acid, tertiary-butylglycine, 2,4-diaminoisobutyric acid, desmosine, 2,2'-diaminopimelic acid, 2,3-diaminopropionic acid, N-ethylglycine, N-ethylasparagine, homoproline, hydroxylysine, allo-hydroxylysine, 3-hydroxyproline, 4-hydroxyproline, isodesmosine, allo-isoleucine, N-methylalanine, N-methylglycine, N-methylisoleucine, N-methylpentylglycine, N-methylvaline, naphthalanine, norvaline, norleucine, ornithine, pentylglycine, pipecolic acid and thioproline. Amino acid analogs include the natural and unnatural amino acids which are chemically blocked, reversibly or irreversibly, or modified on their N-terminal amino group or their side-chain groups, as for example, methionine sulfoxide, methionine sulfone, S-(carboxymethyl)-cysteine, S-(carboxymethyl)-cysteine sulfoxide and S-

(carboxymethyl)-cysteine sulfone.

The term "amino acid analog" refers to an amino acid wherein either the C-terminal carboxy group, the N-terminal amino group or side-chain functional group has been chemically codified to another functional group. For example, aspartic acid-(beta-methyl ester) is an amino acid analog of aspartic acid; N-ethylglycine is an amino acid analog of glycine; or alanine carboxamide is an amino acid analog of alanine.

The term "amino acid residue" refers to radicals having the structure: (1) -C(O)-R-NH-, wherein R typically is -CH(R')-, wherein R' is an amino acid side chain, typically H or a carbon containing substitutent;

or (2) 

, wherein p is 1, 2 or 3 representing the azetidinecarboxylic acid, proline or pipecolic acid residues, respectively.

The term "lower" referred to herein in connection with organic radicals such as alkyl groups defines such groups with up to and including about 6, preferably up to and including 4 and advantageously one or two carbon atoms. Such groups may be straight chain or branched chain.

"Pharmaceutically acceptable salt" includes salts of the compounds of the present invention derived from the combination of such compounds and an organic or inorganic acid. In practice the use of the salt form amounts to use of the base form. The compounds of the present invention are

useful in both free base and salt form, with both forms being considered as being within the scope of the present invention.

In addition, the following abbreviations stand for the following:

"ACN" or "CH_3CN" refers to acetonitrile.

"Boc", "tBoc" or "Tboc" refers to t-butoxy carbonyl.

"DCC" refers to N,N'-dicyclohexylcarbodiimide.

"Fmoc" refers to fluorenylmethoxycarbonyl.

"HBTU" refers to 2-(1H-benzotriazol-1-yl)-1,1,3,3,-tetramethyluronium hexaflurophosphate.

"HOBt" refers to 1-hydroxybenzotriazole monohydrate.

"homoP" or hPro" refers to homoproline.

"MeAla" or "Nme" refers to N-methylalanine.

"naph" refers to naphthylalanine.

"pG" or pGly" refers to pentylglycine.

"tBuG" refers to tertiary-butylglycine.

"ThioP" or tPro" refers to thioproline.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Figure 1 depicts the amino acid sequences for certain compounds of the present invention [SEQ. ID. NOS. 5 TO 35].

Figure 2 depicts the amino acid sequence for exendin-3 [SEQ. ID. NO. 1].

Figure 3 depicts the amino acid sequence for exendin-4 [SEQ. ID. NO. 2].

Figure 4 depicts the amino acid sequence for GLP-1 [SEQ. ID. NO. 3].

Figure 5 depicts dose dependent effects of exendin-4 in comparison with compound 1 of Figure 1 [SEQ. ID. NO. 5] on

plasma glucose levels in db/db mice.

Figure 6 depicts a comparison of effects on gastric emptying of exendin-4, exendin-4 acid and compound 1 of Figure 1 [SEQ. ID. NO. 5].

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

Preferred Compounds

According to the present invention, provided are compounds of the formula (I) [SEQ. ID. NO. 4]:

1 5 10
Xaa_1 Xaa_2 Xaa_3 Gly Thr Xaa_4 Xaa_5 Xaa_6 Xaa_7 Xaa_8
15 20
Ser Lys Gln Xaa_9 Glu Glu Glu Ala Val Arg Leu
25 30
Xaa_{10} Xaa_{11} Xaa_{12} Xaa_{13} Leu Lys Asn Gly Gly Xaa_{14}
35
Ser Ser Gly Ala Xaa_{15} Xaa_{16} Xaa_{17} Xaa_{18}-Z

wherein Xaa_1 is His, Arg or Tyr; Xaa_2 is Ser, Gly, Ala or Thr; Xaa_3 is Asp or Glu; Xaa_4 is Phe, Tyr or naphthylalanine; Xaa_5 is Thr or Ser; Xaa_6 is Ser or Thr; Xaa_7 is Asp or Glu; Xaa_8 is Leu, Ile, Val, pentylglycine or Met; Xaa_9 is Leu, Ile, pentylglycine, Val or Met; Xaa_{10} is Phe, Tyr or naphthylalanine; Xaa_{11} is Ile, Val, Leu, pentylglycine, tert-butylglycine or Met; Xaa_{12} is Glu or Asp; Xaa_{13} is Trp, Phe, Tyr, or naphthylalanine; Xaa_{14}, Xaa_{15}, Xaa_{16} and Xaa_{17} are independently Pro, homoproline, 3Hyp, 4Hyp, thioproline, N-alkylglycine, N-alkylpentylglycine or N-alkylalanine; Xaa_{18} is Ser, Thr or Tyr; and Z is -OH or $-NH_2$; with the proviso that the compound does not have the formula of either SEQ. ID. NOS. 1 or 2. Preferred N-alkyl groups for N-alkylglycine, N-alkylpentylglycine and N-alkylalanine include lower alkyl groups preferably of 1 to about 6 carbon atoms, more preferably of 1 to 4 carbon atoms. Suitable compounds of

formula (I) include those having amino acid sequences of SEQ. ID. NOS. 5 to 35.

Preferred exendin agonist compounds of formula (I) include those wherein Xaa_1 is His or Tyr. More preferably Xaa_1 is His. Preferred are those such compounds wherein Xaa_2 is Gly. Preferred are those such compounds wherein Xaa_9 is Leu, pentylglycine or Met.

Preferred compounds of formula (I) include those wherein Xaa_{13} is Trp or Phe.

Also preferred are compounds of formula (I) wherein Xaa_4 is Phe or naphthylalanine; Xaa_{11} is Ile or Val and Xaa_{14}, Xaa_{15}, Xaa_{16} and Xaa_{17} are independently selected from Pro, homoproline, thioproline or N-alkylalanine. Preferably N-alkylalanine has a N-alkyl group of 1 to about 6 carbon atoms. According to an especially preferred aspect, Xaa_{15}, Xaa_{16} and Xaa_{17} are the same amino acid reside.

Preferred are compounds of formula (I) wherein Xaa_{18} is Ser or Tyr, more preferably Ser.

Preferably Z is $-NH_2$.

According to one aspect, preferred are compounds of formula (I) wherein Xaa_1 is His or Tyr, more preferably His; Xaa_2 is Gly; Xaa_4 is Phe or naphthylalanine; Xaa_9 is Leu, pentylglycine or Met; Xaa_{10} is Phe or naphthylalanine; Xaa_{11} is Ile or Val; Xaa_{14}, Xaa_{15}, Xaa_{16} and Xaa_{17} are independently selected from Pro, homoproline, thioproline or N-alkylalanine; and Xaa_{18} is Ser or Tyr, more preferably Ser. More preferably Z is $-NH_2$.

According to an especially preferred aspect, especially preferred compounds include those of formula (I) wherein: Xaa_1 is His or Arg; Xaa_2 is Gly; Xaa_3 is Asp or Glu; Xaa_4 is

Phe or napthylalanine; Xaa_5 is Thr or Ser; Xaa_6 is Ser or Thr; Xaa_7 is Asp or Glu; Xaa_8 is Leu or pentylglycine; Xaa_9 is Leu or pentylglycine; Xaa_{10} is Phe or naphthylalanine; Xaa_{11} is Ile, Val or t-butyltylglycine; Xaa_{12} is Glu or Asp; Xaa_{13} is Trp or Phe; Xaa_{14}, Xaa_{15}, Xaa_{16}, and Xaa_{17} are independently Pro, homoproline, thioproline, or N-methylalanine; Xaa_{18} is Ser or Tyr: and Z is -OH or $-NH_2$; with the proviso that the compound does not have the formula of either SEQ. ID. NOS. 1 or 2. More preferably Z is $-NH_2$. Especially preferred compounds of formula (I) include those having the amino acid sequence of SEQ. ID. NOS. 5, 6, 17, 18, 19, 22, 24, 31, 32 and 35.

According to an especially preferred aspect, provided are compounds of formula (I) where Xaa_9 is Leu, Ile, Val or pentylglycine, more preferably Leu or pentylglycine, and Xaa_{13} is Phe, Tyr or naphthylalanine, more preferably Phe or naphthylalanine. These compounds will exhibit advantageous duration of action and be less subject to oxidative degration, both in vitro and in vivo, as well as during synthesis of the compound.

Also provided are compounds of the formula (II) [SEQ. ID. NO. 36]:

1 5 10
Xaa_1 Xaa_2 Xaa_3 Gly Thr Xaa_4 Xaa_5 Xaa_6 Xaa_7 Xaa_8
15 20
Ser Lys Gln Xaa_9 Glu Glu Glu Ala Val Arg Leu
25 30
Xaa_{10} Xaa_{11} Xaa_{12} Xaa_{13} Leu X_1 Gly Gly Xaa_{14}
35
Ser Ser Gly Ala Xaa_{15} Xaa_{16} Xaa_{17} Xaa_{18}-Z

wherein Xaa_1 is His, Arg, Tyr or 4-imidazopropionyl; Xaa_2 is Ser, Gly, Ala or Thr; Xaa_3 is Asp or Glu; Xaa_4 is Phe, Tyr or naphthylalanine; Xaa_5 is Thr or Ser; Xaa_6 is Ser or Thr; Xaa_7 is Asp or Glu; Xaa_8 is Leu, Ile, Val, pentylglycine or Met; Xaa_9 is Leu, Ile, pentylglycine, Val or Met; Xaa_{10} is Phe, Tyr or naphthylalanine; Xaa_{11} is Ile, Val, Leu, pentylglycine, tert-butylglycine or Met; Xaa_{12} is Glu or Asp; Xaa_{13} is Trp, Phe, Tyr, or naphthylalanine; X_1 is Lys Asn, Asn Lys, Lys-NH^e-R Asn, Asn Lys-NH^e-R where R is Lys, Arg, C_1-C_{10} straight chain or branched alkanoyl or cycloalkylalkanoyl; Xaa_{14}, Xaa_{15}, Xaa_{16} and Xaa_{17} are independently Pro, homoproline, 3Hyp, 4Hyp, thioproline, N-alkylglycine, N-alkylpentylglycine or N-alkylalanine; Xaa_{18} is Ser, Thr or Tyr; and Z is -OH or $-NH_2$; with the proviso that the compound does not have the formula of either SEQ. ID. NOS. 1 or 2. Also included within the scope of the presentinvention are pharmaceutically acceptable slats of the compounds of formula (II) and pharmaceutical compositions including said compounds and salts thereof. Suitable compounds of formula (II) include that compound having the amino acid sequences of SEQ. ID. NOS. 37-40.

Preferred exendin agonist compounds of formula (II) include those wherein Xaa_1 is His, Tyr or 4-imidazopropionyl. More preferably, Xaa_1 is His or 4-imidazopropionyl.

Preferred are those compounds of formula (II) wherein Xaa_2 is Gly.

Preferred are those compounds of formula (II) wherein Xaa_9 is Leu, pentylglycine or Met.

Preferred are those compounds of formula (II) wherein Xaa_{13} is Trp or Phe.

Preferred are those compounds of formula (II) wherein

X_1 is Lys Asn, or Lys-NH^{ε}-R Asn, where R is Lys, Arg, C_1-C_{10} straight chain or branched alkanoyl.

Also preferred are compounds of formula (II) wherein Xaa_4 is Phe or naphthylalanine; Xaa_{10} is Phe or naphthylalanine; Xaa_{11} is Ile or Val and Xaa_{14}, Xaa_{15}, Xaa_{16} and Xaa_{17} are independently selected from Pro, homoproline, thioproline or N-alkylalanine. According to an especially preferred aspect, Xaa_{18} is Ser or Tyr. Preferred are those such compounds wherein Xaa_{18} is Ser. Preferably, Z is $-NH_2$.

According to one preferred aspect, preferred are compounds of formula (II) wherein Xaa_4 is Phe or naphthylalanine; Xaa_{10} is Phe or naphthylalanine; Xaa_{11} is Ile or Val, X_1 is Lys Asn, or Lys-NH^{ε}-R Asn, where R is Lys, Arg, C_1-C_{10} straight chain or branched alkanoyl and Xaa_{14}, Xaa_{15}, Xaa_{16} and Xaa_{17} are independently selected from Pro, homoproline, thioproline or N-alkylalanine.

The compounds referenced above form salts with various inorganic and organic acids and bases. Such salts include salts prepared with organic and inorganic acids, for example, HCl, HBr, H_2SO_4, H_3PO_4, trifluoroacetic acid, acetic acid, formic acid, methanesulfonic acid, toluenesulfonic acid, maleic acid, fumaric acid and camphorsulfonic acid. Salts prepared with bases include ammonium salts, alkali metal salts, e.g., sodium and potassium salts, and alkali earth salts, e.g., calcium and magnesium salts. Acetate, hydrochloride, and trifluoroacetate salts are preferred. The salts may be formed by conventional means, as by reacting the free acid or base forms of the product with one or more equivalents of the appropriate base or acid in a solvent or medium in which the salt is insoluble, or in a solvent such

as water which is then removed in vacuo or by freeze-drying or by exchanging the ions of an existing salt for another ion on a suitable ion exchange resin.

Utility

The compounds described above are useful in view of their pharmacological properties. In particular, the compounds of the invention are exendin agonists, and possess activity as agents to regulate gastric motility and to slow gastric emptying, as evidenced by the ability to reduce post-prandial glucose levels in mammals.

Preparation of Compounds

The compounds of the present invention may be prepared using standard solid-phase peptide synthesis techniques and preferably an automated or semiautomated peptide synthesizer. Typically, using such techniques, an α-N-carbamoyl protected amino acid and an amino acid attached to the growing peptide chain on a resin are coupled at room temperature in an inert solvent such as dimethylformamide, N-methylpyrrolidinone or methylene chloride in the presence of coupling agents such as dicyclohexylcarbodiimide and 1-hydroxybenzotriazole in the presence of a base such as diisopropylethylamine. The α-N-carbamoyl protecting group is removed from the resulting peptide-resin using a reagent such as trifluoroacetic acid or piperidine, and the coupling reaction repeated with the next desired N-protected amino acid to be added to the peptide chain. Suitable N-protecting groups are well known in the art, with t-butyloxycarbonyl (tBoc) and fluorenylmethoxycarbonyl (Fmoc)

being preferred herein.

The solvents, amino acid derivatives and 4-methylbenzhydryl-amine resin used in the peptide synthesizer may be purchased from Applied Biosystems Inc. (Foster City, CA). The following side-chain protected amino acids may be purchased from Applied Biosystems, Inc.: Boc-Arg(Mts), Fmoc-Arg(Pmc), Boc-Thr(Bzl), Fmoc-Thr(t-Bu), Boc-Ser(Bzl), Fmoc-Ser(t-Bu), Boc-Tyr(BrZ), Fmoc-Tyr(t-Bu), Boc-Lys(Cl-Z), Fmoc-Lys(Boc), Boc-Glu(Bzl), Fmoc-Glu(t-Bu), Fmoc-His(Trt), Fmoc-Asn(Trt), and Fmoc-Gln(Trt). Boc-His(BOM) may be purchased from Applied Biosystems, Inc. or Bachem Inc. (Torrance, CA). Anisole, dimethylsulfide, phenol, ethanedithiol, and thioanisole may be obtained from Aldrich Chemical Company (Milwaukee, WI). Air Products and Chemicals (Allentown, PA) supplies HF. Ethyl ether, acetic acid and methanol may be purchased from Fisher Scientific (Pittsburgh, PA).

Solid phase peptide synthesis may be carried out with an automatic peptide synthesizer (Model 430A, Applied Biosystems Inc., Foster City, CA) using the NMP/HOBt (Option 1) system and tBoc or Fmoc chemistry (see, Applied Biosystems User's Manual for the ABI 430A Peptide Synthesizer, Version 1.3B July 1, 1988, section 6, pp. 49-70, Applied Biosystems, Inc., Foster City, CA) with capping. Boc-peptide-resins may be cleaved with HF (-5°C to 0°C, 1 hour). The peptide may be extracted from the resin with alternating water and acetic acid, and the filtrates lyophilized. The Fmoc-peptide resins may be cleaved according to standard methods (Introduction to Cleavage Techniques, Applied Biosystems, Inc., 1990, pp. 6-12). Peptides may be also be assembled using an Advanced

Chem Tech Synthesizer (Model MPS 350, Louisville, Kentucky).

Peptides may be purified by RP-HPLC (preparative and analytical) using a Waters Delta Prep 3000 system. A C4, C8 or C18 preparative column (10 μ, 2.2 x 25 cm; Vydac, Hesperia, CA) may be used to isolate peptides, and purity may be determined using a C4, C8 or C18 analytical column (5 μ, 0.46 x 25 cm; Vydac). Solvents (A=0.1% TFA/water and B=0.1% TFA/CH_3CN) may be delivered to the analytical column at a flowrate of 1.0 ml/min and to the preparative column at 15 ml/min. Amino acid analyses may be performed on the Waters Pico Tag system and processed using the Maxima program. Peptides may be hydrolyzed by vapor-phase acid hydrolysis (115°C, 20-24 h). Hydrolysates may be derivatized and analyzed by standard methods (Cohen, et al., The Pico Tag Method: A Manual of Advanced Techniques for Amino Acid Analysis, pp. 11-52, Millipore Corporation, Milford, MA (1989)). Fast atom bombardment analysis may be carried out by M-Scan, Incorporated (West Chester, PA). Mass calibration may be performed using cesium iodide or cesium iodide/glycerol. Plasma desorption ionization analysis using time of flight detection may be carried out on an Applied Biosystems Bio-Ion 20 mass spectrometer. Electrospray mass spectroscopy may be carried and on a VG-Trio machine.

Peptide compounds useful in the invention may also be prepared using recombinant DNA techniques, using methods now known in the art. See, e.g., Sambrook et al., Molecular Cloning: A Laboratory Manual, 2d Ed., Cold Spring Harbor (1989). Non-peptide compounds useful in the present invention may be prepared by art-known methods.

The compounds referenced above may form salts with

various inorganic and organic acids and bases. Such salts include salts prepared with organic and inorganic acids, for example, HCl, HBr, H_2SO_4, H_3PO_4, trifluoroacetic acid, acetic acid, formic acid, methanesulfonic acid, toluenesulfonic acid, maleic acid, fumaric acid and camphorsulfonic acid. Salts prepared with bases include ammonium salts, alkali metal salts, e.g., sodium and potassium salts, and alkali earth salts, e.g., calcium and magnesium salts. Acetate, hydrochloride, and trifluoroacetate salts are preferred. The salts may be formed by conventional means, as by reacting the free acid or base forms of the product with one or more equivalents of the appropriate base or acid in a solvent or medium in which the salt is insoluble, or in a solvent such as water which is then removed in vacuo or by freeze-drying or by exchanging the ions of an existing salt for another ion on a suitable ion exchange resin.

Formulation and Administration

Compounds of the invention are useful in view of their exendin-like effects, and may conveniently be provided in the form of formulations suitable for parenteral (including intravenous, intramuscular and subcutaneous) or nasal or oral administration. In some cases, it will be convenient to provide an exendin or exendin agonist and another anti-gastric-emptying agent, such as glucagon, an amylin, or an amylin agonist, in a single composition or solution for administration together. In other cases, it may be more advantageous to administer another anti-emptying agent separately from said exendin or exendin agonist. In yet other cases, it may be beneficial to provide an exendin or an

exendin agonist either co-formulated or separately with other glucose lowering agents such as insulin. A suitable administration format may best be determined by a medical practitioner for each patient individually. Suitable pharmaceutically acceptable carriers and their formulation are described in standard formulation treatises, e.g., Remington's Pharmaceutical Sciences by E.W. Martin. See also Wang, Y.J. and Hanson, M.A. "Parenteral Formulations of Proteins and Peptides: Stability and Stabilizers," Journal of Parenteral Science and Technology, Technical Report No. 10, Supp. 42:2S (1988).

Compounds useful in the invention can be provided as parenteral compositions for injection or infusion. They can, for example, be suspended in an inert oil, suitably a vegetable oil such as sesame, peanut, olive oil, or other acceptable carrier. Preferably, they are suspended in an aqueous carrier, for example, in an isotonic buffer solution at a pH of about 5.6 to 7.4. These compositions may be sterilized by conventional sterilization techniques, or may be sterile filtered. The compositions may contain pharmaceutically acceptable auxiliary substances as required to approximate physiological conditions, such as pH buffering agents. Useful buffers include for example, sodium acetate/acetic acid buffers. A form of repository or "depot" slow release preparation may be used so that therapeutically effective amounts of the preparation are delivered into the bloodstream over many hours or days following transdermal injection or delivery.

The desired isotonicity may be accomplished using sodium chloride or other pharmaceutically acceptable agents such as

dextrose, boric acid, sodium tartrate, propylene glycol, polyols (such as mannitol and sorbitol), or other inorganic or organic solutes. Sodium chloride is preferred particularly for buffers containing sodium ions.

The claimed compounds can also be formulated as pharmaceutically acceptable salts (*e.g.*, acid addition salts) and/or complexes thereof. Pharmaceutically acceptable salts are non-toxic salts at the concentration at which they are administered. The preparation of such salts can facilitate the pharmacological use by altering the physical-chemical characteristics of the composition without preventing the composition from exerting its physiological effect. Examples of useful alterations in physical properties include lowering the melting point to facilitate transmucosal administration and increasing the solubility to facilitate the administration of higher concentrations of the drug.

Pharmaceutically acceptable salts include acid addition salts such as those containing sulfate, hydrochloride, phosphate, sulfamate, acetate, citrate, lactate, tartrate, methanesulfonate, ethanesulfonate, benzenesulfonate, *p*-toluenesulfonate, cyclohexylsulfamate and quinate. Pharmaceutically acceptable salts can be obtained from acids such as hydrochloric acid, sulfuric acid, phosphoric acid, sulfamic acid, acetic acid, citric acid, lactic acid, tartaric acid, malonic acid, methanesulfonic acid, ethanesulfonic acid, benzenesulfonic acid, *p*-toluenesulfonic acid, cyclohexylsulfamic acid, and quinic acid. Such salts may be prepared by, for example, reacting the free acid or base forms of the product with one or more equivalents of the appropriate base or acid in a solvent or medium in which the

salt is insoluble, or in a solvent such as water which is then removed in vacuo or by freeze-drying or by exchanging the ions of an existing salt for another ion on a suitable ion exchange resin.

Carriers or excipients can also be used to facilitate administration of the compound. Examples of carriers and excipients include calcium carbonate, calcium phosphate, various sugars such as lactose, glucose, or sucrose, or types of starch, cellulose derivatives, gelatin, vegetable oils, polyethylene glycols and physiologically compatible solvents. The compositions or pharmaceutical composition can be administered by different routes including intravenously, intraperitoneal, subcutaneous, and intramuscular, orally, topically, or transmucosally.

If desired, solutions of the above compositions may be thickened with a thickening agent such as methyl cellulose. They may be prepared in emulsified form, either water in oil or oil in water. Any of a wide variety of pharmaceutically acceptable emulsifying agents may be employed including, for example, acacia powder, a non-ionic surfactant (such as a Tween), or an ionic surfactant (such as alkali polyether alcohol sulfates or sulfonates, e.g., a Triton).

Compositions useful in the invention are prepared by mixing the ingredients following generally accepted procedures. For example, the selected components may be simply mixed in a blender or other standard device to produce a concentrated mixture which may then be adjusted to the final concentration and viscosity by the addition of water or thickening agent and possibly a buffer to control pH or an additional solute to control tonicity.

For use by the physician, the compounds will be provided in dosage unit form containing an amount of an exendin agonist, with or without another anti-emptying agent. Therapeutically effective amounts of an exendin agonist for use in the control of gastric emptying and in conditions in which gastric emptying is beneficially slowed or regulated are those that decrease post-prandial blood glucose levels, preferably to no more than about 8 or 9 mM or such that blood glucose levels are reduced as desired. In diabetic or glucose intolerant individuals, plasma glucose levels are higher than in normal individuals. In such individuals, beneficial reduction or "smoothing" of post-prandial blood glucose levels, may be obtained. As will be recognized by those in the field, an effective amount of therapeutic agent will vary with many factors including the age and weight of the patient, the patient's physical condition, the blood sugar level or level of inhibition of gastric emptying to be obtained, and other factors.

Such pharmaceutical compositions are useful in causing gastric hypomotility in a subject and may be used as well in other disorders where gastric motility is beneficially reduced.

The effective daily anti-emptying dose of the compounds will typically be in the range of 0.01 or 0.03 to about 5 mg/day, preferably about 0.01 or 0.5 to 2 mg/day and more preferably about 0.01 or 0.1 to 1 mg/day, for a 70 kg patient, administered in a single or divided doses. The exact dose to be administered is determined by the attending clinician and is dependent upon where the particular compound lies within the above quoted range, as well as upon the age,